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STATE ART COMMISSION

BULLETIN



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

1920

STATE ART COMMISSION

BULLETIN

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SUBMISSIONS

ACT OF MAY 1, 1919

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

1920

**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE ART COMMISSION**

To the Hon. William C. Sproul,
Governor of Pennsylvania,
Harrisburg.

Sir:

In compliance with paragraph six in the Act of May first, nineteen hundred nineteen, the State Art Commission, herewith, respectfully submits its first annual report which covers the activities of the Commission from the time it was appointed on October 15, 1919 to December 1920.

PERSONNEL

Under your appointment, the following men compose the Commission:

Mr. C. C. Zantzinger, President.
Mr. Nicola D'Ascenzo, Secretary.
Mr. J. A. Dempwolf.
Mr. Benno Janssen.
Mr. E. B. Temple.

The personnel of the Commission has remained unchanged during the first year of its operation.

FIRST MEETING

The first meeting was held in the Governor's suite at Harrisburg, November 20th, 1919, where the general policy to be pursued was discussed and received your endorsement. At this meeting it was decided to appoint a curator, employ a secretary, rent office space which should be, if practicable, in the office of the curator, print bulletin and blanks of submission.

CURATOR

On December 15, 1919, Mr. D. M. Kirkpatrick of Philadelphia was named curator of the Art Commission, and his office was selected as the head quarters of the Commission.

APPENDIX "D"

The State Art Commission has held nine regular meetings:

Place	Date
Philadelphia,.....	January 10, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	February 14, 1920
Harrisburg,.....	April 10, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	May 12, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	June 12, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	July 10, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	September 11, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	October 9, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	November 13, 1920

and six special meetings:

Place	Date
Philadelphia,.....	December 17, 1919
Philadelphia,.....	January 2, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	March 6, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	April 14, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	June 25, 1920
Philadelphia,.....	November 23, 1920

APPENDIX "E"

TABULATED LIST OF SUBMISSIONS

Place	Date	Description	Approved	Disapproved
1. Media	10-29-19	Mem. Fountain		
2. Lewistown	12-30-19	Victory Park	1- 2-20	
3. Danville	11-22-19	Mem. Monument	1- 2-20	
4. Hazleton	1-15-20	Nurses' Home	3- 9-20	
5. Harrisburg	1-26-20	Camp Curtain Mem.	4-10-20	
6. McConnellsburg	2-13-20	Mem. Forum		
7. Swarthmore	1- 1-20	Monument	2-14-20	
8. Waterford	3- 2-20	Monument		
9. Harrisburg	1- 8-20	Portrait Gen. Price		3- 6-20
10. Paoli	3-16-20	Mem. Parade Grounds		
11. Harrisburg	1-22-20	Oakley Paintings	3-14-20	
12. Muncy	3-20-20	Bridge	5-12-20	
13. Jersey Shore	3-20-20	Bridge	5-12-20	
14. Coatesville	3-25-20	Park & Play Ground		
15. Wellsboro	1- 1-20	Hospital		
16. Grampian	2- 8-20	Monument	3-14-20	
17. Chambersburg	4- 9-20	Bronze Mem. Tablet	11-13-20	
18. Warren	4-22-20	Park & Play Ground	5-12-20	
19. Linglestown	2- 4-20	Monument		
20. Duquesne	5-13-20	Monument		
21. Scott Twp.	5- 6-20	Stone Culvert	5-12-20	
22. Benton	5- 6-20	Stone Bridge	5-12-20	
23. Greenfield	5- 6-20	Stone Culvert	5-12-20	
24. Morrisville	5-21-20	Park & Play Ground	6-12-20	
25. Millheim	5-26-20	Monument		6-12-20
26. Spring City	5-14-20	Rebuilding Bridge		
27. Darby Creek	5-12-20	Bridge	6-25-20	
28. Lansdowne	6- 8-20	Monument		
29. Lebanon	6- 8-20	Bridge		
30. Hughesville	6-14-20	Bridge		
31. Jefferson Twp.	6-15-20	Bridge		
32. Honesdale	6-15-20	Bridge		
33. York	6-16-20	Monument		
34. Waynesboro	6-21-20	Bronze Tablet		
35. Brookville	4-25-20	Bridge		
36. Harrisburg		Standardized Bridges		
37. Newtown	7-26-20	Bridge		
38. Elizabethville	8- 7-20	Park & Play Ground		
39. Burnham	8- 7-20	Bridge	9-11-20	
40. Pine Grove	8-10-20	Bridge		
41. New Ringold	8-10-20	Bridge		
42. Harmar Twp.	8- 1-20	Bridge	9-11-20	
43. Highspire	8-19-20	Bridge	9-11-20	
44. Mintzers	8-18-20	Bridge		
45. Canton Twp.	8-20-20	Bridge	9-11-20	
46. Lewistown	9- 7-20	Orphanage Bldg.		9-11-20
47. Allentown	9- 7-20	Mem. Fountain		11-13-20
48. Spring Run	9- 7-20	Mem. Monument		
49. Chatham Run	9- 7-20	Bridge	9-11-20	
50. Reading	9-10-20	Gen. Gregg Monument		
51. Carroll Twp.	9-11-20	Bridge	10- 9-20	
52. Springfield	9-11-20	Bridge	10- 9-20	
53. Lower Chanceford	9-11-20	Bridge	10- 9-20	
54. Blakely Borough	9-29-20	Bridge		
55. Lewistown	9-21-20	Y. M. C. A.	10- 9-20	
56. Appollo	10- 1-20	Bridge	11-13-20	
57. Clearfield	10- 2-20	Bridge	11-13-20	
58. W. Conshohocken	10- 9-20	Monument		
59. Shute's Run	8-12-20	Bridge		
60. Harrisburg	10-19-20	Monument		
61. Blossburg	10-19-20	Laundry Building		
62. Greene Twp.	11- 6-20	Bridge		
63. Salem Twp.	11- 6-20	Bridge	11-13-20	

PART I.—THE YEAR'S WORK.

Throughout this first year's work, the Commission has been hampered by the fact that projects falling within the jurisdiction of the Commission have been undertaken, and in many cases far advanced, before being submitted to the Commission. For good reasons it has proved to be impracticable, always, to insist on carrying out the recommendations of the Commission. It has seemed best to give the approval of the Commission to some projects, therefore, that could not otherwise have been accepted.

With the completion of its first year of service, and in view of the steps that have been taken to advise the officials of the Commonwealth of its duties, the Commission has now ruled that it does not feel called upon to further suspend the application of its full powers and it will, therefore, in future act on each submission when made exclusively upon the merits of the submission as presented.

The Commission holds itself in readiness to consult with all who are charged with carrying forward public works. It greatly prefers to consider projects at their inception and recommends, therefore, that "preliminary approval," as suggested on the submission blank, be applied for as soon as possible after the work in question is in contemplation, for the Commission has found that generally its recommendations have tended to reduce the cost of projected work.

As a result of a recent conference between yourself and members of this Commission, methods for promoting co-operation between the Public Service Commission and the Art Commission were devised. The Art Commission, therefore, looks forward to increasing its usefulness by advising and conferring with the Public Service Commission relative to structures and improvements ordered by them.

Although the bulletins of information have been distributed to the Department of Public Instruction, and to the school superintendents of all counties, no school house has, as yet, been brought before the Commission, notwithstanding

the legal requirements so to do. Although the law defining the jurisdiction of the Art Commission was included in the data as above distributed, no response from parties controlling school construction has been received. The Commission regrets that it is not in a position to report to you of any work done in this direction.

The Art Commission has in all cases endeavored to cooperate with those in charge of work, realizing that nothing can be advanced by the simple process of disapproval, and it has, as far as possible, tried to adapt suggestions to the financial means at hand. The Commission has found every willingness on the part of those with whom it has dealt, to be guided by its recommendations.

PART II.—THE PROCEDURE.

DOCUMENTS

To regularize the method of making submissions, the Commission drew up a "Blank of Submission" (see Appendix "B") and adopted rules of procedure, which together with the act creating the Art Commission were printed in a "Bulletin" (see Appendix "C").

POLICY OF PUBLICITY

To initiate and insure the successful operation of the Commission, it was necessary to bring to the attention of the officials of the Commonwealth the duties and jurisdiction of the Art Commission. To this end the above documents were issued through the Department of Distribution at Harrisburg and the office of curator to the following:

The heads of all the departments at Harrisburg.

The mayors of all cities within the Commission's jurisdiction.

The chief burgesses of all boroughs.

The superintendents of school in each county.

The county commissioners of each county.

All institutions receiving State aid.

Various independent commissions and societies.

METHOD OF OPERATION

This information, owing to the length of time required for printing, was not distributed until March, 1920.

In order to efficiently discharge its duties, the Commission requires all parties with authority to contract for work falling within the jurisdiction of the Commission to submit the blank of submission, properly filled out, and to accompany same with prints and drawings in duplicate, giving all necessary information relative to the work contemplated. This data, upon receipt and when complete, is acknowledged and the submission thereupon is referred to a member or members of the Commission for preliminary consideration. Consultation with the designer is had at this stage, if necessary, and when a conclusion is reached in committee, the submission is presented to the Commission as a whole for disposition. The action taken is either that of approval or the reverse.

MEETINGS

The Commission has held nine regular meetings and six special meetings. All but one held in Philadelphia.

SUBMISSIONS

The number of projects submitted to the Art Commission up to December first is sixty-three; of these, twenty-seven have been approved, four have not been approved and the remainder are pending.

These submissions can be divided as follows:

- Twenty-eight bridges.
- Thirteen memorial monuments.
- Six public parks and playgrounds.
- Two bronze tablets.
- Seventeen miscellaneous submissions.

See Appendix "E" for list of submissions and action taken thereon.

BRIDGES

Largely through the co-operation of the Water Supply Commission and the Highway Department, there have been submitted to the Art Commission twenty-eight bridges, varying from the smallest and simplest to structures of very considerable magnitude. In general, the Commission begs to report that this work is acceptable and is a credit to the Commonwealth.

The Art Commission is, and has been, discussing the questions of the standardized bridges now being designed by the State Highway Department.

The Commission heartily endorses the policy of the Highway Department in maintaining as far as possible, by restoration or enlargement, the existing masonry bridges along our highways.

The greatest willingness has been shown by the county engineers in charge of bridges to co-operate with the Commission. The Art Commission has been, and is, in a position to render a very appreciable service to the Commonwealth in connection with these structures.

MISCELLANEOUS SUBMISSIONS

In addition to the above, the Art Commission has received a number of miscellaneous submissions. Probably the most important of these to which it has given consideration is the proposed development of the Capitol grounds at Harrisburg and the interior decorations of the Capitol itself.

SUPPLIES

The Art Commission, being a commission created in the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings, has carried on the routine of supplies, equipment and requisitions through this department.

ACCOUNTING

The actual expenses of the Commission during its first year were \$5,180.30, irrespective of the cost of supplies re-

ceived from the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings and other charges directly defrayed by that department.

PART III.—RECOMMENDATIONS.

APPROPRIATION

The Commission believes that with the growth of its work, the appropriation contemplated for initiating its work will not in future be adequate, taking into consideration the increased traveling expenses which are bound to arise and the probable increase in the paid staff of the Commission.

The Art Commission recommends that the previous appropriation of \$10,000 be increased to \$15,000 for the period of two years.

BILL BOARDS

In the performance of its duties throughout the State, the Art Commission has been impressed with the unhappy effect of the indiscriminate and wholly unregulated multiplication of billboards and other advertising signs along the roads. Many miles of highway running through the most beautiful sections have been ruined in appearance by these impertinent intrusions upon the view of the traveler. They can only be adequately regulated by a suitable exercise of the police power and no legislation conferring this power upon any State or local authorities has yet been adopted.

The Art Commission recommends that suitable legislation and, if necessary, a constitutional amendment shall be initiated at the next Legislature to vest in the State Commission of Highways in the country districts and in the local authorities in municipalities, the power and duty to restrict the future erection and maintenance of billboards, etc.

ZONING

Regulation of billboards is closely allied to regulation of the location, size, and use of buildings, commonly called "zoning."

The Art Commission heartily endorses the zoning clause contained in the amended Constitution formulated by the Commission on Constitutional Amendment and Revision.

CITY PLANNING

It is to be regretted that city planning in the minds of many people has become confused with the hackneyed term, "The City Beautiful." The fact is, of course, that an orderly arrangement of a municipality will lead to better results from an aesthetic point of view, while avoiding waste in reconstruction of ill-advised or thoughtless development. The facts are, that to allow municipalities to grow without control is both uneconomic and unbusinesslike.

Both France and England have recognized the wisdom of controlling and directing the future growth of all municipalities by adopting legislation which makes it incumbent upon all municipalities to file before a given date with the central authorities, a plan for their future growth.

In order to conserve the natural advantages of their sites and to advance the sane and proper development of our cities and towns.

The Commission recommends that this whole question of the control of municipal growth be studied and that legislation in consonance with the progressive tendencies of the day and with the needs of the Commonwealth, be enacted by the next Legislature.

EXCESS CONDEMNATION

The carrying out of municipal improvements, as is well known, has been impeded in many instances by existing laws. The present method of assessing damages takes no account of the benefits accruing to the abutting or adjacent property holders. The existing laws also interfere with any adjustment of the property lines between properties.

The Art Commission recommends the enactment of the provisions suggested by the Commission on Constitutional Amendment and Revision, which contemplate assessing bene-

fits on not only abutting, but adjacent property, and which give the right to municipalities to acquire all additional adjacent property which is deemed necessary to the success of the improvement in question.

BUILDING CODE

A special commission is now preparing a building code for the State. It may be noted that this action is in line with a recommendation made by the Committee on Production and Reconstruction of the United States Senate in its recent partial report, which advises the creation of a Federal bureau to assist in framing uniform building codes.

Without being familiar with the nature of the recommendations about to be made, the Art Commission begs to endorse this movement in principle, being assured that by regulation, saner and more permanent and sightly methods of construction will come into vogue in this Commonwealth, while at the same time the enormous annual fire waste will be diminished.

STATE PARKS

Through the courtesy of the Valley Forge Park Commission, the Art Commission has been able to visit this beautiful State park and to observe with them the result of their careful and thoughtful carrying out of the instructions under which they operate. This historic ground is indeed being most carefully restored to its original condition.

It is to be regretted that the Valley Forge Park Commission has found it necessary, in order to carry out its instructions, to partly destroy the picturesque village of Port Kennedy. This destruction was but recently still going on.

The Art Commission recommends that this be stopped and further that the instructions of the Valley Forge Park Commission be so changed as to enable it to employ a competent architect to carry out the necessary changes in the village

and its houses in order that it may be given as far as may be, the character of a colonial village of the Revolutionary period. This could be accomplished with less outlay to the State than the buying of these buildings outright from their present owners, and would preserve this interesting hamlet.

It is with regret that the Art Commission has learned that due to lack of appropriation therefor, it has always been impossible for the Valley Forge Park Commission to employ a landscape designer.

It is not sufficient that a historic site be developed with a view to exhibiting its points of interest. The natural beauties should be enhanced by the tasteful and well-considered road development and embellishment. When such a project is set on foot, or surely before any development of the projected park is undertaken, a comprehensive plan for the completed project should be secured, either through the Bureau of Municipalities or by the employment of properly qualified landscape designer. This plan, after being adopted, should govern in the expenditure of funds as these from time to time become available by appropriation or otherwise. It is the belief of this Commission that this procedure, and by it only, can the State secure the proper consecutive development of State projects of this nature.

To this end the Art Commission recommends that the next Legislature make provision for this necessary service, not only for Valley Forge Park, but for any other State parks which are now being planned.

DELAWARE RIVER BRIDGE

The Art Commission has noted with interest that an engineering commission has been appointed for the preliminary study of the great project for a bridge between Philadelphia and Camden. The Art Commission is impressed with the great difficulty attending the solution of this problem, which presents itself to them rather as one of planning than of construction.

The intention to unite the two banks of the Delaware is a first recognition of the fact that the metropolitan district of Philadelphia extends into New Jersey. The whole question of food supply for this district has been revolutionized by the motortruck, for which the old lines of transportation are inadequate. The bridge must be located in reference to these and many other important considerations or it will not be a success. The problem must be studied in its broadest aspects.

The Art Commission recommends that there be added to the existing commission either an individual or a group, competent to advise in matters of design with the engineering commissions already appointed and to undertake with them an exhaustive study of the comprehensive problem of the proper location of the bridge as modified and effected by the probable future growth of the metropolitan district of Philadelphia.

EDUCATION

The Commission begs to call to your attention the recommendation recently made by the Committee on Production and Reconstruction of the United States Senate urging the establishment of trade schools in cities and states for training apprentices in the building trades. The method of recruiting these trades is well worthy of consideration, specially at this time, and while teaching facilities are not absolutely lacking, their adequacy has been questioned. By proper encouragement a higher standard of craftsmanship can be fostered.

The Commission has noted with satisfaction the movement initiated during the past year by the Department of Public Instruction to improve the teaching facilities of the State in the direction of a broader appreciation of art.

If American educational methods are backward in any particular, it is in a realization of the proper place which education in the appreciation of the beautiful should have in our school curricula.

It is not a technical training in any of the arts that is to be desired, or for which opportunity is lacking, for there are excellent art schools that very adequately offer such instruction—what is wanted is that each child should be brought to see beauty in nature, in its surroundings, or in the classroom, to the end that individual happiness may be increased, that the mental horizon of the majority may be widened and unavoidably, that the standard of public taste may be raised.

The colleges and high schools are awakening to the importance of this matter. There are private agencies which stand ready to assist and among these is the American Federation of Art, which has created traveling exhibitions of painting, sculpture, engraving, and other branches of art, which exhibitions are available on application and could be exhibited in school buildings throughout the State to the great edification, not only of the children, but of their elders. Much can be done along these lines.

The Art Commission would welcome the opportunity to consult with the Department of Public Instruction on these matters.

In thinking of this branch of teaching offered to the school children, the Commission is tempted to consider how they are sheltered while at school.

The Art Commission recommends that in planning future school houses, those controlling the appropriation should be generous in insisting that the building in which the school children pass their time during the most impressionable period of their lives, should be not only durable and sanitary, but beautiful.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. C. C. Zantzinger, President.

Mr. Nicola D'Ascenzo, Secretary.

Mr. J. A. Dempwolf

Mr. Benno Janssen

Mr. E. B. Temple

D. M. Kirkpatrick,

Curator.

APPENDIX "B"

STATE ART COMMISSION



SUBMISSION BLANK

*DESIGNS FOR

- A. A monument, piece of sculpture, painting or other object:
- B. A public structure: (monument, public building, school-house, bridge, etc.):
- C. A private structure: (monument, building, bridge, etc.):
- D. A public park, playground or other open space:
- E. The relocation or alteration of an existing structure:

as described below are hereby submitted to the State
Art Commission for approval.

Signed.....

*(Please check the proper classification.)

1. Date of submission.
2. By whom submitted?
(Name of parties or organization controlling the work.)
3. How acquired:
 - a. Gift.
 - b. Purchase.
 - c. Other means.
4. To be maintained by whom:
5. Where to be erected:
(Name of city, town, borough, county, or township, etc., population.)
6. Description of work:
(Memorial or otherwise and other particulars.)
7. Estimated cost:
8. Description of location:
(Site in city, relation to highways, rivers, approaches, etc.)
9. Architect, painter, sculptor, engineer, designer:
(Name and address.)

Is final or preliminary approval requested?

*Data to accompany this submission:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>*1. In case of "preliminary approval only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sketches and plans (in duplicate) or photographs, or blue-prints sufficient to fully illustrate proposed work. b. Photographs (in duplicate) of site and approaches. c. Any additional data (not necessarily in duplicate) which may further illustrate proposed work. d. Block plan or survey showing location. | <p>*2. In case of "final" approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Working plans and elevations. (In duplicate.) b. General survey or block plan of site showing levels, approaches, etc. (In duplicate.) c. Specifications. (In duplicate.) d. Scale details. |
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APPENDIX "C"

STATE ART COMMISSION

BULLETIN

ACT OF MAY 1, 1919

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SUBMISSIONS

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

1920

AN ACT

Creating a State Art Commission in the Board of Commissioners of Public Grounds and Buildings; requiring the approval of the commission of the design and location of all public monuments, memorials, buildings, or other structures, and certain private structures, proposed to be erected anywhere in this Commonwealth other than in cities of the first and second classes.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, &c., That a State Art Commission is hereby created in the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings, consisting of five citizens of this Commonwealth, to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for the term of three years. All vacancies on the commission shall be filled by the Governor. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 2. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be paid all actual traveling and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 3. The Governor shall appoint a president and a secretary of the commission. The commission shall have power to adopt its own rules of procedure, and to prescribe regulations for the submission to it of all matters within its jurisdiction.

SECTION 4. The Board of Public Grounds and Buildings shall furnish such offices for the commission as shall be required, and shall also furnish to it such clerical and other assistants as it may require, and fix the compensation of the persons so employed.

SECTION 5. From and after the approval of this act, no public monument, memorial, building, or other structure shall become the property of the Commonwealth or any sub-division

thereof, by purchase, gift, or otherwise, unless a design for the same, and the proposed location thereof, shall have first been submitted to, and approved by, the State Art Commission.

No construction or erection of any public monument, memorial, building, or other structure, which is to be paid for, either wholly or in part, by appropriation from the State Treasury or from any sub-division of the State, or for which the State or any sub-division is to furnish a site, shall be begun unless the design and proposed location thereof shall have been approved by such commission.

No monument, memorial, building, or other structure, belonging to any person or corporation, shall be erected upon or extend over any highway, stream, lake, square, park, or other public place, within any sub-division of this State, except the design for and the location thereof shall have been approved by such commission.

SECTION 6. The commission shall submit annually to the Governor on, or before the first Monday of December, a report of its proceedings during that year, together with such recommendations as the commission shall deem conducive to the improvement of the Commonwealth or any sub-division thereof.

SECTION 7. The expenses of the commission and the compensation of employes shall be paid out of appropriations to be made to the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings.

SECTION 8. The provisions of this act do not apply to a city of the first or second class.

All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Approved—The 1st day of May, A. D. 1919.





